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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
First session
Rome, 29 September-10 October 1997
Agenda item 7 (d)

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AND OTHER DECISIONS AND CONCLUSIONS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES: DESIGNATION OF A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS FUNCTIONING

Note by the Secretariat

Decision 10/17 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee is reproduced below for the convenience of delegations to the first session of the Conference of the Parties.

GE.97-80117 (E)

Decision 10/17

Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: procedure for selection of the city to host the permanent secretariat

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling its decision 9/2 and following the recommendation of the Contact Group on the physical location of the permanent secretariat that met on 19 August 1997 during the resumed tenth session of the Committee,

Recommends to the Conference of the Parties at its first session the following procedure for the selection of the city to host the permanent secretariat:

(a) An informal and confidential poll should be conducted among countries that are parties to the Convention that are present on the day of the poll for the purpose of obtaining a consensus on the physical location of the permanent secretariat;

(b) The poll should be carried out in a plenary meeting on Friday, 3 October 1997, under the chairmanship of the President of the Conference, under the direct supervision of the Chairman of the Contact Group and with the support of the secretariat;

(c) Only accredited delegates of parties will participate. It is, therefore, essential that parties provide their letters of credentials as early as possible to allow the Bureau of the Conference, acting as Credentials Committee, to review them and prepare a report in time for the poll;

(d) Each party shall indicate its preference on a ballot prepared for this purpose, with a clear mark in the box adjacent to the name of the city that the party considers the most appropriate for the physical location of the permanent secretariat. The completed ballot shall be placed in a closed box during the plenary meeting;

(e) Once the voting process is concluded, the box will be opened in the presence of the Chairman of the Contact Group, the representatives of the three countries offering to host the permanent secretariat and the Executive Secretary. Ballots containing more than one mark or left blank will be considered invalid and will not be counted;

(f) If one of the cities obtains an absolute majority of valid preferences, it will be proposed as a consensus decision. If no city obtains a majority, a second and final round of voting will be carried out to elicit preferences between the two cities obtaining the most votes in the first round. The city obtaining the greatest number of votes in the second round will be proposed by the President as a consensus decision of the Conference on the same day. The detailed results of the poll will be kept secret.

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Convention to Combat Desertification

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CREDENTIALS OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF PARTIES TO THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Report of the Bureau

Introduction

1. In accordance with rule 19 of the draft rules of procedure, "(t)he credentials of representatives as well as the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat if possible not later than 24 hours after the opening of the session. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the Permanent Secretariat. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization."

2. Furthermore, rule 20 of the draft rules of procedure provides that "(t)he Bureau of any session shall examine the credentials and submit its report to the Conference of the Parties for decision".

3. The present report is submitted to the Conference of the Parties in the light of the foregoing.

Credentials of Parties to the first session of the Conference of the Parties

4. On 8 October 1997, the Bureau met to examine the credentials submitted by Parties to the Convention.

5. The Bureau had before it a memorandum dated 8 October 1997 from the Executive Secretary on the status of credentials of representatives participating in the Conference. The information in this memorandum is reflected below.

6. As noted in the memorandum of the Executive Secretary, formal credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, as provided for in rule 19 of the draft rules of procedure, had been received by the Secretariat for the representatives of the following 76 Parties participating in the Conference: Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Iceland, India, Italy, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Spain, St. Kitts and Nevis, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Reublic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan and Zambia.

7. As of 8 October 1997, credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs as provided for in rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, have been submitted by facsimile for the representatives of the following 9 Parties participating in the Conference: Antigua and Barbuda, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Greece, Luxembourg, Mali, Saint Lucia, Senegal and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

8. As noted further in the memorandum, information concerning the appointment of representatives participating in the Conference had been communicated by means of facsimile in the form of letters or notes verbales from ministries, embassies, permanent missions to the United Nations or other Government offices or authorities, or through local United Nations offices, by the following 17 Parties participating in the Conference: Afghanistan, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Malaysia, Mauritius, Micronesia, Mongolia, Nigeria, Sudan, Sweden and Yemen.

9. The President proposed that the Bureau should accept the credentials of all the representatives mentioned in the memorandum of the Executive Secretary, on the understanding that formal credentials for the representatives referred to in paragraphs 7 and 8 above would be communicated to the Secretariat as soon as possible. The Bureau accepted the proposal and

agreed to submit the present report to the Conference. The Bureau further agreed to recommend to the Conference the adoption of the following draft decision:

Credentials of representatives of Parties to the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the report on credentials of the Bureau of the first session of the Conference of the Parties and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report on credentials submitted by the Bureau of the first session of the Conference of the Parties.

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